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SOVIETS APPOINT NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINE BUILDING;
HIT PLAN FAILURES, INEFFICIENCY AT FARM MACHINE PLANTS

REPLACE MINISTER -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 16 Mar 51

The presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR has appointed G. M. Popov Minis-
 ter of Agricultural Machine Building and released F. N. Goremykin from the post.

ORGANIZATION LACK MAKES WORK SPORADIC, CONFUSED -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka,
 23 Mar 51

The Uzbeksel'mash (Uzbek Agricultural Machine Building) Plant failed to
 fulfill the plan for tractor cotton planters for January and February 1951.
 To make up for this failure, the plant's workers decided to cover these losses
 in March, and also to put out a considerable number of planters above plan.
 A number of effective measures for liquidating bottlenecks were worked out and
 put in effect in the course of several days. There is less talk of external
 reasons for lagging behind, and workers and engineers are more outspoken and
 severe in their criticism of the real culprits, who are usually the plant of-
 ficials. The plant is now turning out almost three times as many planters as
 it was in January and February.

In the foundry, the soaking-pit process has been changed so that anneal-
 ing of parts takes 96 hours; 34 hours less than was possible under the old
 system. Output per unit of equipment has increased 15-20 percent. Installa-
 tion of a new conveyor in assembly shop No 5 began on 1 March and the first
 planters were coming off the line by 5 March. The productivity of the welding
 and painting sections has been considerably increased, and many skilled work-
 men have been freed from secondary operations in these sections.

The line on the chart which records fulfillment on the assembly conveyer
 alternately shoots far above 100 percent and then slides back to the January
 level. Foreman Pelikh's shift assembled ten planters above plan on 14 March,
 was ten planters short on 15 March, a day later put out 15 more planters than

- 1 -

SECRET

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SECRETS-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

provided for by the chart, and on 19 March was again short ten machines. The unit-assembly section also works in this sporadic manner. The conveyers have daily standstills and the foremen become "pushers." They are almost always in the subassembly shops arguing, persuading, and snatching enough parts for several hours' work, after which they are again back in the subassembly shops.

Conveyor stoppages are at times due to trifles. These trifles can be remedied in a few hours, but new breakdowns soon occur. These breakdowns, unforeseeable and unimportant as they seem at first glance, reveal shortcomings in the organization of production that have not yet been eliminated by the plant management.

The work of the shops has not been successfully coordinated. The first few days of work according to the new schedule revealed the gap between the capacity of the assembly line and the subassembly shops. The planter assembly shop can put out much more than provided for by the new, increased schedule, while the foundry, press-forging, and other subassembly shops can not even keep up with the assigned tasks.

There are still instances of bureaucracy, negligence, and irresponsibility at the plant. For 4 days Komarov, chief technologist, argued with the forge-shop workers about the practicability of a die for miller shares. Komarov belatedly admitted his mistake, which had cost the shop dozens of working hours. The assembly conveyor lost almost an entire shift because of Molodchik, chief of machine shop No 1, and Denisenko, planning-distribution bureau manager, who held back the delivery of finished parts for heat treatment.

The cleaning section is the bottleneck in the foundry. The supply department, headed by Markarov, did not supply emery wheels of the needed diameter to this section despite warnings and protests.

More than half the tie-ups in production occur because of poor technical supply. The supply department is responsible for the fact that incomplete planters were turned out for several days, and for the delay in delivering the seamless pipe allotted by order. Despite complaints, it was not until 20 March, after the last stocks had been used up, that the supply department began to look for wire for springs. These hitches in supply show that the department does not know the needs of production, and works without a plan. For a long time, the supply department did not even know the stocks on hand or the requirements of rolled metals and other materials.

In the confusion resulting from constant last-minute hurrying, parts that have not been checked by the OTK (Technical Control Department) go into assembly. On 20 March, a group of defective gears was sent to assembly by the tool shop. On another occasion, several dozen hubs, which, as an experiment, had been cast from gray iron instead of wrought iron, went into assembly. The mistake was discovered after the planters were already assembled.

Besides bolstering the technology and discipline of production, the party organization must solve other problems which affect productivity. Today, as for the past 3 years, the visitor to the Uzbeksel'mash Plant will see heaps of building-material trash, equipment exposed to the elements, and broken down roads. Freshly painted planters roll to the shipping area through puddles, and their wheels get stuck in the mud up to the hubs. The sand-conditioning building has stood uncompleted for many months, and the molding conveyor built at the plant has not yet been put into operation.

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T**SECRET**

SECRETS-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

The party committee (Storozhek, secretary) and trade union plant committee (Kalantayenko, chairman) have not yet delivered to the foundry the Transferable Red Banner; won at the beginning of March.

There are also external reasons why the Uzbeksel'mash Plant lags behind; it is often held back by its cooperating plants, suppliers, and contractors. The Chirchiksel'mash (Chirchik Agricultural Machine Building) Plant is behind with steel castings for planters. Trust No 32 conducts capital construction slowly. There are often hitches in fuel supply attributable to Uglesbyt (Administration of Coal Sales).

Uzbeksel'mash workers must complete the work they have started in rebuilding and regulating production; otherwise, all present accomplishments will end in the usual last-minute rush, which has been the case so often in the past.

HINDER PROGRESS IN HIGH-SPEED METAL CUTTING -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka,
22 Mar 51

Although some progress has been made in introducing high-speed metal-cutting methods at the Tashsel'mash (Tashkent Agricultural Machine Building) Plant, there are still people at the plant who not only persistently resist new innovations, but also hinder the innovators. Vaade, former chief of shop No 1, and Markov, former mechanic of this shop, instead of helping high-speed machinists, started to reproach them with "trying to make a fast ruble."

Four sets of V-belts were made up to facilitate high-speed cutting, and the use of one of these sets increased the machine tool's productivity 20 percent. But the remaining three sets of belts have been lying in the chief mechanic's storeroom, and no attempt has been made to widen the use of V-belts.

Management of the plant's tools is not properly organized for high-speed cutting. The plant party committee has generally been indifferent to the difficulties experienced by high-speed machinists, although they have begun to show some interest in this work of late.

When the plant began introducing high-speed cutting methods in 1948, members of UzNITOMASH (Uzbek Scientific Engineering-Technical Society of Machine Builders) visited the workers and took an interest in the new methods, but that was the sum total of their participation in the program. Technical councils created in the shops have also shown little interest in high-speed machinists, and the all-plant technical council has met only since it was formed.

The last all-city meeting on high-speed metal cutting was held in May 1950, and resolutions adopted at that meeting, calling for the study and circulation of the latest methods, have remained on paper. -- D. Sudakov, senior foreman, instructor of high-speed metal cutting, Tashsel'mash Plant

PLANT LACKS GRINDSTONES, BASIC MATERIALS -- Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya,
31 Mar 51

The productive capacity of the Tiraspol' Machinery Plant imeni Kirov has increased three times in the course of the postwar Five Year Plan. However, the lack of special grindstones for sharpening hard-alloy-tipped tools is hindering the widespread application of high-speed cutting methods. Moldupr-snab (Moldavian Supply Administration), which is supposed to supply enterprises of the Ministry of Local Industry, did not furnish a single green silicon stone to the plant in 1949 and 1950. Poor supply of basic materials often leads to last minute speed-ups and equipment stoppages at the plant. Since February of this year the foundry has already had 5 days of stoppages.

- 3 -

S-E-C-R-E-T**SECRET**

SECRET

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

SCORE INEFFICIENCY AT WAGON PLANT -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 22 Mar 51

The Tashkent Wagon-Building Plant, Ministry of Local Industry Uzbek SSR, which make hillier-fertilizers, horse-drawn cultivators, and two-horse brichkas, did not fulfill its 1950 production assignment and only managed to complete its January and February 1951 quotas by last minute speed-ups in the final third of each month.

Unightly junk piles and freshly painted agricultural machines axle-deep in mud and exposed to snow and rain testify to the neglect that is rampant in this plant.

Plant workers attribute the lack of a rhythmic work cycle to external causes, mainly to poor supply of metal and timber materials. Actually, the plant often lacks raw materials as a result of hitches in material and technical supply. However, this does not mean that the plant management can use external causes as an alibi and shirk the task of mobilizing internal production reserves. For instance, a great quantity of scrap lumber at the plant could be used to make a shed for the finished machinery. Then too, poor quality repair work leads to frequent breakdowns of equipment and consequent work stoppages.

The plant party bureau does not guide the work of the trade union and Komsomol organization satisfactorily, nor does it serve as a control on the economic activities of the management. At the same time, the management does not try to work in close harmony with the party organization.

FARM-MACHINERY PLANT BREAKS PLAN -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 7 Mar 51

The Frunze Agricultural Machine Building Plant imeni Frunze did not fulfill its 1950 plan, overconsumed much metal and coke, raised the production cost of goods, and is operating at a loss.

CALL FOR PLAN FULFILLMENT -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 23 Mar 51

A report of serious shortcomings in the work of the Chirchiksel'mash (Chirchik Agricultural Machine Building) Plant in turning out cultivator bankers appeared in Pravda Vostoka on 8 March. Beglov, secretary of the party's Chirchik City Committee has informed this paper that the facts reported have been substantiated. A resolution was adopted at a party committee bureau session calling for the removal of shortcomings in Chirchiksel'mash's work and for the categorical fulfillment of the 1951 plan for cultivator bankers.

AUTOMATIC MACHINE STANDS IDLE -- Stalinabad, Kommunist Tadzhikistana, 3 Apr 51

At the Stalinabad Traktorodetal' Plant, a six-spindle automatic machine which performs five complex operations in the machining of Universal tractor pistons has been standing idle for more than a year. At the same time, ten other machine tools are doing the work of this machine, and labor productivity is less than half of what it would be if the automatic machine were in operation.

When the machine is run at full speed, its oil gets very hot. A proposal that water be used to cool the oil was put aside without a trial.

- 4 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

SECRET

SECRET

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

TAKE ON ADDED OBLIGATIONS -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 15 Mar 51

The Kirovgrad Krasnaya Zvezda Agricultural Machine Building Plant has promised to fulfill the 1951 plan by 5 December, to make 3,000 seeders above the plan, to make 500 machines from conserved material, and to save no less than 5 million rubles' worth of state assets by utilizing production reserves.

Conveyers will be set up in the foundry, where much work is done by hand, and in the paint shop.

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SECRET

- 5 -

S-E-C-R-E-T